

MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
Board of Mental Health Practice
March 12, 2021

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Mental Health Practice was called to order by the Chair, Dale Battleson, at 3:32 p.m. at the Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lower Level B, Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on 3.5.2021.

The following members answered roll call:

Members Present (7):

Dale Battleson, Chair
Batter, Sara, Member
L. Janeen Gill, Secretary
David Hof, Vice Chair
Mychelle Martinez, Member
Susan Meyerle, Member
Sarita Ruma, Member

Members Absent (3):

Laurie Andrews, Member
Cassandra Dittmer, Member
Susan Reay, Member

Others Present:

Kris Chiles, Program Manager, Licensure Unit (in LL-B)
Teresa Hampton, DHHS Attorney

A quorum was present and the meeting convened.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Hof moved, seconded by Meyerle, to adopt the agenda. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Battleson, Batter, Gill, Hof, Martinez, Meyerle, Ruma (7). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Andrews, Dittmer, Reay (3). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

4. LB 325: DISCUSS ART THERAPY LEGISLATION

Comments and discussion relating to LB 325 included the following:

- What is title protection?
- Would the title art therapist be confusing to the public?
- Portability of license
 - MHP would be portable, not sure if the certification as an art therapist would
 - Effect on someone moving to Nebraska
- Purpose of regulating is 'public protection'
- Art therapy is a valuable technique, but perhaps not as a separate certificate
- Counter conversation: colleges and universities offer degrees in art therapy and music therapy, other techniques there are no degrees offered (i.e.: EMDR)
- Nationally several groups are discussing deregulating professions
- Will it be reimbursable by insurance companies?
- Not sure if the certification protects the public
- Don't want to micromanage the profession

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Hoff, to not support LB 325. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Battleson, Batter, Gill, Hof, Martinez, Meyerle, Ruma (7). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Andrews, Dittmer, Reay (3). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

Members of the Board recommended a letter be drafted and sent by the Chair to Skyler Dykes, Attorney for the Nebraskans for the Arts

5. CLOSED SESSION - INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS & OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Hof, to enter into closed session at 9:49 a.m. to hear discussions of an investigative/confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Battleson repeated the motion purpose. A roll vote was taken. Voting aye: Battleson, Batter, Gill, Hof, Martinez, Meyerle, Ruma (7). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Andrews, Dittmer, Reay (3). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

Members agreed to enter open session at 4:30 p.m.

Tara Kay Vazquez-Alarcon – CSW

MOTION: Meyerle moved, seconded by Hof, to recommend a 6 month probation with successful passage of the jurisprudence examination within the 1st 90 days; basis failed to report convictions. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Battleson, Batter, Gill, Hof, Martinez, Meyerle, Ruma (7). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Andrews, Dittmer, Reay (3). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Battleson declared the meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.; next meeting is May 14, 2021.

L. Janeen Gill, Secretary
Board of Mental Health Practice

Summarized by: Licensure Unit